

State Studies Ways to Reduce Adult School Frills, Expenses

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

A perennial poser which haunts our legislative labors is the adult education program. Fiercely defended by its supporters, it is subject to equally violent attack by those who claim most of it is a waste of taxpayers' money. We legislators are strictly in the middle, and must bear up under a barrage of pro and con arguments.

One important cause of our troubles is that adult classes are offered on four different levels, high school, junior col-

lege, state college, and university. This has resulted in duplication of subjects and classes, with consequent competition for students as well as state and local funds. Recently a subcommittee of the Assembly interim committee on education held a hearing to investigate the possibility of eliminating duplication, wiping out frills, and reducing state aid.

NOT TOO MANY of us are aware of the vast proportions of the adult education system. I confess I was a bit startled when told that more than

458,000 persons were enrolled in adult classes at the high school and junior college levels alone at the last count, plus an additional 60,000 to 70,000 at state colleges and in university extension. And these figures include only those taking less than ten hours of classes per week.

State aid for adult education in high schools and junior colleges has been budgeted at almost \$11 million this year. How many more millions are involved at the colleges and university cannot be determined easily, but the net

cost to taxpayers has been officially estimated at at least \$2 million. These costs do not include amounts spent from local funds for adult classes.

ENROLLMENT IN adult classes is sky-rocketing almost as rapidly as enrollment of youth in regular school classes. One district reported an increase of almost 60 per cent in seven years, and many others report growth at least as great. Leaders in adult education who appeared before the subcommittee expressed their fear that any cut in state financial

assistance might threaten the program, at least so far as unified, high school, and junior college districts are concerned. They reported that many employed persons use the adult education classes as a means of further technical or professional training. Many of California's up-to-date and progressive industries, such as electronics, chemicals, and guided missiles depend upon adult classes for continuous, off-the-job instruction of their workmen to keep up with rapid advances in technology they contend. Equally, employed individuals seeking to acquire professional status use the program to pick up needed credits.

frills, such as courses in tap dancing, finger painting or the like, was not touched upon at this preliminary meeting. However, one witness did state that much adult class time was devoted to crafts or other subjects not connected with working for a certificate, diploma, or degree.

The problem of duplication, or near duplication of courses in the same field by institutions serving the same areas, was explored at some length. Adult educators admitted that it does exist, and agreed that it should be kept to a minimum. It is a continuous job to prevent duplication, one witness said, and close coordination between all adjacent dis-

Births

RIVIERA HOSPITAL

FON TAINNE—Mr. and Mrs. Norman, 2127 Shearer Ave., a son, David Norman, Oct. 10.

NATION—Mr. and Mrs. Mickey, Wilmington, a son, Mark Kelly, Oct. 15.

REDBURG—Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth P., 814 West 212th St., a son, James Lee, Oct. 16.

JOHNSTON—Mr. and Mrs. Donald E., Manhattan Beach, a son, Jeffrey Steven, Oct. 16.

WIGAND—Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J., Redondo Beach, a daughter, Johanna, Oct. 17.

DAVIS—Mr. and Mrs. William P., 3910 Emerald St., a daughter, Catherine Mary, Oct. 17.

WAYMIRE—Mr. and Mrs. E. L., Redondo Beach, twin daughters, Cara of Ellen and Jo, Ann, Oct. 17.

CHACE—Mr. and Mrs. Paul, Lomita, a son, Alan Burton, Oct. 17.

RODRIGUES—Mr. and Mrs. Robert, 5601 Sunnyview, a son, Rodney Robert, Oct. 18.

WILLIAMS—Mr. and Mrs. Edward W., San Pedro, a son, Edward Ward, Oct. 18.

KAIL—Mr. and Mrs. Avo G., 1202 W. 20th St., a son, Roger Denn, Oct. 18.

BENSON—Mr. and Mrs. Joel A., Rolling Hills, a daughter, Wendy Denise, Oct. 19.

FEICK—Mr. and Mrs. Charles R., 2920 Winlock Road, a son, Douglas Charles, Oct. 19.

GRIFTY—Mr. and Mrs. Robert, 1822B Hawthorne Blvd., a daughter, Lisa Ann, Oct. 20.

VIRGIL

By Lew Kleis



SUPERMAN



RIVETS



RED RYDER

By Fred Herman

