

GOP, Demos Agree Often on State Matters, Local Assemblyman Says

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
 Assemblyman, 46th District
 During the 10 years that I have been in the California State Legislature, I have observed that at least 90 per cent and possibly more than 95 per cent of all bills introduced in either the Assembly or the Senate are non-partisan in nature.

I mention this because at election time, there is a vast amount of propaganda about the necessity of electing a Republican or a Democrat in order to reduce taxes, raise taxes, pass the water plan, defeat the water plan, or for some other purpose and yet people do not realize that members of the California State Legislature are individuals and do not always vote according to some political party platform.

For example, in the 17th Congressional District, which

Montana Council Member Visits Local Family

Wallace Mehrens, a councilman from the city of Anaconda, Montana, and a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Piatt, concluded a three week tour and study of Torrance and the South Bay area, and is now enroute to his own political arena.

The visiting "city father" of Anaconda participated in the "Youth Honor Day" program presented by the Torrance lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose fraternity during his stay in this city.

Mehrens was introduced during a recent meeting of the Torrance city council, and conferred with Mayor Isen of Torrance on mutual city problems. He also participated in a program of preparing the Little Company of Mary hospital for its forthcoming dedication.

Mrs. Piatt, hostess for the visiting Montana councilman, is the former Mary L. Mehrens of Anaconda, Montana.

Area Medical Group Plans Installation

Nearly 100 doctors and their wives will attend the annual installation banquet of the Southwest District of the Los Angeles County Medical Assn. scheduled for the Thunderbird International Hotel in El Segundo on Nov. 28.

Dr. George C. Anderson of Hermosa Beach will be the new district president; Dr. Edward W. Knutson of Torrance, vice president; and Dr. Alonzo Monk, Redondo Beach, secretary-treasurer. Dr. William C. Casey of Torrance will serve as Councilman from the District to the Los Angeles County Medical Assn.

Retiring officers are president, Dr. Arthur J. Olson of Redondo Beach; vice president, Dr. Casey; and secretary-treasurer, Dr. Howard E. Fishel of Redondo Beach.

Delegates to the California Medical Assn. for 1960 are Drs. Howard A. Wood of Torrance, Thomas G. Halasey of Redondo Beach and Dr. Casey.

includes three Assembly Districts, Clayton Dills, a Democrat and Vincent Thomas, also a Democrat, vote like I do on more bills than they differ with me. They do this because our three Assembly Districts are geographically, and socially similar.

OF COURSE, we differ on a few bills. For example, Vincent Thomas, who represents a big commercial fishing area, must vote with the commercial fishermen and the fish canners, but I usually vote with the amateur, sporting fishermen and so does Assemblyman Clayton Dills. Obviously, neither the fish nor the fishermen are either Republicans or Democrats.

Sometimes, a non-partisan group, like a Chamber of Commerce or a service club, arranges a "panel" for discussion and a question-and-answer period, with one or two Republican members of the Assembly and one or two Democratic members present.

If those present listen closely to the answers to questions, they will find that Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, Assemblyman Clayton Dills, and Assemblyman Charles H. Wilson, all Democrats, give almost the same answer to most questions as I do, although everyone knows that I am a Republican, and although the words may differ, the tune is almost the same.

OF COURSE, we disagree on some issues. At one "panel" discussion, Assemblyman Charles H. Wilson said that he did not support the idea of County Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli regarding the reapportionment of the California State Senate and I said I believe Frank G. Bonelli is right. At another "panel" discussion, I said that the California State Legislature would be better if both the Assemblymen and the Senators were elected as non-partisan candidates, but Assemblyman Vincent Thomas said he did not agree with me. However, during the same "panel" discussion, someone asked whether or not officers of local government, such as mayors, city councilmen, school board members, water district boards, county supervisors, etc, should be elected on a non-

partisan basis or not. Assemblyman Vincent Thomas answered with a strong negative "NO," and I agreed with him.

Neither Thomas nor I believe that local government should be on a political party basis. We both believe that a man or woman should be elected on his or her own merits, and not on the basis of a political party tag.

ALL THESE facts may come as a blow to those who mistakenly believe that all Republicans should hate all Democrats, and vice versa, but my job in this weekly column is

to report the truth as I have seen it for nearly 10 years. When Clayton Dills presented his famous anti-narcotics bill on the floor of the Assembly, it was at his request and at the urging of many Elks Clubs that I made the second speech supporting the Elks Club-Dills bill.

When I had a fish conservation bill called up on the floor of the Assembly on a day when I had to be before the Senate Committee, it was Vincent Thomas who acted as floor leader for my fish bill, and he did this with the approval of both the commercial and the

sporting fishing organizations.

NOW WE COME down to the underlying philosophy behind all these facts. Frank H. Afton, an Inglewood automobile dealer who has been my close, personal friend for about 14 years, summed it up very well in 1950, when I was first elected to the Legislature:

Afton said: "Charlie, all I ask of you is to remember that you are an American first, a Californian second, and all else will follow in due course."

All the publishers and editors of newspapers have told me the same thing for nearly 10 years, although each and every one had his own way of expressing himself. I think that this is American govern-

ment in action. You may call it politics if you wish, but to me there is something above and beyond politics when Thomas, Dills, Wilson and I put moral principles above party labels and work for the common good.

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