

Mailbox

Assemblyman Discusses Proposed Slashes in Record State Budget

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

World Leadership

Editor, Torrance Herald

If the United States is going to lead the free world, it must take the initiative in making changes in keeping up with the times.

First, put education on a national basis to standardize the school system in all 50 states.

Second, with fifty per cent federal aid, more schools could then be built.

Third, perhaps a substantial pay raise for teachers to encourage young people in this profession.

Fourth, adult education programs available in every state. Political science would tend to stimulate the peoples' thinking on government issues, both federal and local, also the issues of both parties and create heavy and intelligent voting.

Fifth, educate the free world, not only Bible schools as the missionaries are now doing, but also teach democracy and how it works.

History has proved the only reason for an empire to fall is moral decay. This will start in the home. Therefore, the Bible teaching is a must. This is the only way to fight Communism.

After Japan surrendered, General Douglas MacArthur said: "Send me missionaries."

As your Legislator, it is one of my major responsibilities to scrutinize carefully the budget requests of the state administration. In the best interests of the State and all its citizens, we cannot permit ourselves to merely rubber-stamp the demands for tax money.

In a State expanding as rapidly as California, it is really a monumental job to analyze the multitude of different state functions so that their expenditure programs can be carefully controlled for true economy. But the job must be done if our State is to be given the kind of government it needs at a price we can afford to pay. As I have said here before, that is why we created the office of legislative analyst several years ago, so that he and his staff could do the detailed review we need to make sound decisions.

The analyst has just released his report to the joint legislative budget committee on the \$2.5 billion budget bill. The 650-page document well reflects the hours of patient work by our budget experts with the individual agencies and the department of finance.

The report recommends reductions totalling about \$13,700,000 in the budget requested, but this is a minimum figure. In addition to his specific suggestions, the analyst states that he is unable to advise us on many other items, either because he has not been given needed data, or it is not available.

The total of the cuts urged may seem very small in comparison to the budget request, but that very fact demonstrates two things. First, the budget as submitted to us is really a pretty tight one. Second, our California system of practically year-around budget development and review produces real efficiency and economy.

So many reductions are recommended by the analyst that it would be impossible to even list all of them here. On the average, they amount to a few thousand dollars per agency, but in a few cases, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of dollars are involved.

Perhaps the largest single cut suggested is in the proposed budget for the department of mental hygiene. The analyst recommends that \$2,438,000 be removed from the total request for \$123,751,000. He points out that major proposals in the amount requested by the department include a day hospital program and a convalescent leave system.

As to the first, he comments that its real value has not yet been sufficiently established to warrant its installation on the wide basis proposed. As to the second, he states that there is much duplication of services to convalescents as between state and local mental health agencies which had better be eliminated before additional services are provided.

It is very interesting to

note that the report makes no recommendations with respect to the one department, motor vehicles, which actually requested an amount better than half a million dollars less than the current year's budget. As to this, the report omits that no information has been given regarding the proposed reduction.

To the extent to which changes in the departmental procedures can be made which would produce such a savings, the idea is worthwhile, the report continues, but there is danger that it might cut the negligent driver program, and thus adversely affect highway safety. The report suggests the agency should clarify the facts.

Whatever the final results may be, it is certain that the warning signals put up on many budget items by our legislative analyst will be of great assistance to those of us who are working now on the budget bill.

City to Host Cities

Torrance will be host to the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities here March 17, it was announced this week by Mayor Albert Isen.

Superior Judge Joe Raycraft of Long Beach will be principal speaker as officials from most of the county's incorporated cities meet at the Jump'n Jack Restaurant, 2900 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Dividend Approved

The board of directors of Northrop Corp. Wednesday declared a quarterly dividend of 40 cents per share, payable March 19, 1960 to shareholders of record Feb. 29, 1960.

STAR GAZER**

By CLAY R. POLLAN
Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Thursday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 22 APR. 20 8-11-30-38 49-65-79-82	TAURUS APR. 21 MAY 21 15-27-37-46 52-70-81-84	GEMINI MAY 22 JUNE 22 9-10-56-59 60-64-71	CANCER JUNE 23 JULY 23 12-23-33-35 62-67-69	LEO JULY 24 AUG. 23 16-21-31-34 54-58-86-90	VIRGO AUG. 24 SEPT. 22 2-4-22-40 43-53-77	LIBRA SEPT. 23 OCT. 23 19-25-39-42 73-74-75	SCORPIO OCT. 24 NOV. 22 1-3-6-17 18-20-55	SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23 DEC. 22 28-32-36-47 50-66-83-88	CAPRICORN DEC. 23 JAN. 20 5-7-13-26 29-45-80-87	AQUARIUS JAN. 21 FEB. 19 14-24-51-57 72-76-78	PISCES FEB. 20 MAR. 21 41-44-48-61 63-68-85-89
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