

# Prescription Drug Taxes May Be Cut, Solon Says

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District

One proposed tax cut measure which seems to have a better than average chance of success at this session is the one which would eliminate the sales tax on prescription drugs. A bill with that purpose has passed the Assembly with only a scattering of opposition votes.

The 1961-62 budget submitted for our consideration was described by the Governor as "narrowly balanced." As presented, it will reduce the existing surplus in the general fund to a token amount of only \$468,000 by the end of that fiscal year. On this basis, the chance of any tax cut does not look too good. However, the Governor has

indicated that the elimination of taxes on prescriptions is the only possible reduction which can be seriously considered this year.

Proposals to wipe out sales taxes on a wide variety of items are very familiar around the Capitol, but none of them have gone anywhere. In 1959, a measure which would have extended the exemption to a number of other

health items besides prescriptions was vigorously pushed, but was not passed.

Main support for this year's bill comes from those groups and individuals who feel that the existing tax on prescription medicines is inequitable because it falls on those who are sick and therefore least able to pay it. It is therefore argued that if any tax relief is granted, it should be on medicines.

state revenues would be cut about \$4.7 million.

Another bill proposed a far wider exemption which would have included other health aids, such as crutches, eyeglasses, braces, hearing aids, and other prosthetic devices. This measure failed to receive Assembly committee approval. However, a strong effort was made to amend its provisions into the bill which did pass during final action on the floor of the Assembly, but was not successful. It was estimated this proposal would have lowered revenues to cities, counties and the state by some \$15 million.

Prospects for quick action by the Senate on this tax cut bill do not seem too bright just now, and it is likely that action may be deferred until after the budget bill is acted upon some time in May. Simultaneously with Assembly passage of the measure, the Senate committee on revenue and taxation, which must first pass on it, voted unanimously to hold up hearings on any bills which would reduce state revenues by any substantial amount until after it is decided whether the budget is in balance or not.

The answer to this latter question depends primarily on the speed with which California and the nation emerge from the recession

of the past several months. If the second quarter of 1961 shows a quick recovery with consequent increase in sales tax revenues over current estimates, the exemption of prescription drugs might have no effect on the balancing of the budget. At any rate, spokesmen for the department of finance have indicated that the budget was prepared with the possibility of the tax cut on medicines in mind.

Whatever the final outcome on this particular tax reduction bill may be, at least we have reviewed the advisability of cuts of this kind, and are in position to act rapidly, if they seem warranted.

## Pastor Here For Services

Pastor Theodore B. Hax of the California Lutheran Bible school will head a program to be presented at the Resurrection Lutheran School tonight at 7:30. We will have with him members of the Bible School Choral group and speakers who will be speaking especially to the Luther League. Topic of Pastor Hax's message will be "I Believe."

The sermon topic for Sunday will be "The Goodness and The Severity of God." There will be three services as usual and baby sitting is provided. Sunday school is at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

# Six Hundred Volunteers Sought For National Guard's Reserve

More than six hundred volunteers, preferably with prior military service, are needed to swell the ranks of the 1st Brigade, California National Guard Reserve, the Southland's home and security defense force, it was revealed today.

The possibility that all or part of California may be left relatively unprotected in the event of war or major natural disaster is the reluctant rallying point for this band of patriots now serving as a cadre to back up the Army National Guard and Civil Defense and other governmental agencies.

state guard-home defense forces. These states fully realize that should the National Guard be Federalized, a state force must be on hand to take over internal security missions.

RESPONSIBLE for second-line protection of southern California's southland empire is Brigadier General Azro J. Maxham, a veteran officer of many years service. Brigadier General Allen Chapman commands the 2d Brigade with headquarters in San Francisco. Both Brigades have Major General Ivan L. Foster, of Santa Barbara as Chief of Staff, CNGR, who is on the personal staff of the State Adjutant General, Major General Roderic L. Hill.

More than 90 per cent of the present 1st Brigade roster is made up of officers and non-commissioned officers—men and women—many of them decorated with numerous combat awards. Former Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guardsmen now proudly wear the state-issue khaki.

UNRELATED to the State's Army National Guard which is Federally recognized and subject to Federal control, the CNGR—which it is commonly called—is, however, commanded by the State Adjutant General, Major General Roderic L. Hill. The mission of the CNGR is to replace the regular Guard as a state military force whenever the latter is called into Federal service, or out of the State on military duty.

In the armories of 10 southern California counties, this handful of some 300 officers and men and women meet at regular drill assemblies to maintain their professional fitness and to always be ready to fulfill the mission of the States' Reserve Force which, simply stated is, "survival of the maximum number of Californians in event of great disaster or war."

THEY SERVE without pay, except for limited travel allowances for special training schools. A high degree of marksmanship and military training is obtained with facilities and limited equipment, as available.

The State Guard civilian soldier force was first created by an act of the far-seeing 1949 State Legislature and was activated by Governor Earl Warren after the Korean crises in the summer of 1950 under an enabling act passed by Congress.

Later, the 84th Congress passed Public Law 364 which allows the states to maintain separate military forces, in cadre form, in addition to the regular National Guard. California, Texas, New York, Washington, Ohio, Georgia, Maryland, and Colorado have taken the lead in establishing cadre

WHAT WOULD seem to be the greatest hindrance to keeping an effective state force of volunteer reservists on the job, subject to strict military discipline, would be the lack of financial remuneration for drill and training time put in. Yet not a man, nor a woman, has complained when "pay-days" cross the calendar year after year, without one cent of drill pay. The CNGR has aptly been called the "least expensive insurance policy on the books of the State of California."

In addition to the normal military training in infantry and military police subjects, the 1st Brigade now has two Operational Information Service Teams (Intelligence) functioning with the California Disaster Office in Regional Control Centers in Pasadena, Region 1, and in Escondido, Region 6, all without pay. This special training, in support of Civil Defense, is also part of the Brigade-wide training program.

GREATEST need of the 1st Brigade, CNGR at present is a manpower pool on which to draw in case of local or national emergencies. The present enlistment goal calls for at least six hundred officers and enlisted men and women to fill important vacancies in cadres, both at Brigade Headquarters and in the 15 Battalions.

Specialists in various fields—radio, first aid, administration and management are also eligible for enlistment without prior military service. Physical examinations are not required at this time. In fact, quite a number of veterans with minor or corrected physical disabilities are already in the ranks of the CNGR and are assigned to important staff and other positions.

CADRE battalions of the 1st Brigade, CNGR, are located in Army National Guard Armories in Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Pasadena, Burbank, Santa Barbara, Victorville (Apple Valley), San Bernardino, Riverside, Bakersfield, San Diego, El Centro, Ontario, Arcadia and Inglewood. Interested persons are invited to write or call the Commanding General, 1st Brigade, California National Guard Reserve, 3440 South Hope St., Los Angeles 7, telephone, Richmond 8-2947, or to contact the appropriate local Armory.

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## Torrance Coed Gets Feature Role in Drama

Sally Mason, daughter of Mrs. Ida B. Mason of Torrance, will be starring in a feature role in the California Western University Players' production of the "Diary of Anne Frank" which will be presented at the San Diego campus for four performances beginning March 15th.

Miss Mason will play the part of Mrs. van Daan, a sharer of the hide-out with Anne Frank in the Pulitzer prize winning play which will be directed by Donald L. Barbe, chairman of the Fine Arts Division.

Miss Mason won several awards and special recognition in speech and drama at Torrance High School where she graduated in 1959. She is taking an active part in the campus drama activities.

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