

Possibility of Tax Reductions Dim As Legislators View Budget

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

As we move into the home stretch of this session, more and more signs are being hoisted to warn us that we must proceed cautiously in dealing with state fiscal affairs for the coming year. Just recently we were told that total state revenues this year are now expected to fall \$9.6 million below the figure used when the budget was submitted to us in January. Next year's receipts are now estimated to top the January forecast by \$10.8 million. The net effect of these two offsetting totals will be to throw the \$2.6 billion budget now being reviewed in our committees at least \$1 million out of kilter, it is predicted.

The likelihood of this situation is compounding the pressure on our twin committees which are reviewing the budget, Senate finance and Assembly ways and means. The Governor has indicated he will take advantage of his constitutional authority to blue-pencil individual items to keep the budget in balance, so the committee members are now taking second looks at many budget items already considered.

ONE EVIDENT result of this predicament is to dim considerably the possibility of any kind of state tax reduction at this session. Approval even of the administration-backed bill to exempt prescription drugs from the sales tax now seems remote.

Another big problem arising from these forecasts also confronts every Legislator, as well as members of the two committees. That is what to do with the horde of special appropriation bills which are piled up behind the budget waiting action. You recall that no such bill can be heard until after the budget is passed unless the Governor gives special permission.

AT THE LATEST tally, the

total amount involved in such bills is at least \$220 million, but this is a rock-bottom minimum. More than 140 measures would make appropriations for specific purposes, but the costs involved in 14 of these cannot be even reasonably estimated, so must be added to the figure user here. In addition, another 45 bills are thought to contain "implied" appropriations - that is, they call for expanded or new functions which will cost taxpayer money to administer.

These special money bills cover a wide range of fields, from agriculture to the youth authority, from education to social welfare. Amounts range from a few thousand dollars for a small special study to several million for a flood control project.

EACH OF THESE appropriation measures has particular status for the Legislator who introduced it, as well as the group or groups supporting it. Dependent upon whether the bill is statewide in its application, or primarily of local concern, support may come from large or small groups.

One thing is, however, certain. Supporters of each appropriation proposal will do everything in their power to facilitate its passage, and will communicate with every member on the hearing committees.

Not nearly so vocal, however, are those who may question the necessity for, or the ability of the state to finance a particular project.

THIS FREQUENTLY makes it difficult for a Legislator to properly evaluate a spending proposal and make a decision concerning it which will be equitable to all the citizens of California.

This is especially true at this session, when all the information available from reliable sources tells us that our state government will not be able to pay for every project covered by a special appropriation bill.

ECC Choir, Folksingers Slate Concert Saturday

"A Century in American Song" will be presented by the a capella choir and college folksingers of El Camino College Saturday evening, May 27, at 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Theater.

Under the direction of R. Nell Hill, the choral concert will also feature musical representations from the centuries of Bavarian, Israel and Norway.

William Collins, a student teacher working as an assistant to Hill, will conduct the "Te Deum" by Zoltan Kodaly, a sacred

choral work sung in the original Latin text by the choir. Kodaly, a Hungarian composer, has created in the "Te Deum" moods of exquisite beauty and achieved fantastic heights in the harmonic and rhythmic structures.

"PSALM 134" by Fissinger opens the program, which is in two portions. "A Century in American Song" is the informal "show" portion and features small ensembles and solos as well as the choir.

Selections include "Comin' Round the Mountain," "Rock-A-My Soul," "Two Brothers," a barbershop medley, "My Buddy," a Charleston Medley with dancers, a "Porgy and Bess" medley, "We Saw the Sea," by Berlin, "Laura," and "When the Lights Go On Again."

REPRESENTING the period from 1950 to 1960 is "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," and "Hully Gully," "Exodus," arrangements by Bill Fritz, completes the theme.

The finale is "Hail, Bright Abode," from "Tannhauser" by Richard Wagner.

UNDER HILL'S leadership the a capella choir has toured extensively in northern California and sung many times for schools, service clubs, and churches. The choir returned this week from a tour of the San Diego area schools and colleges.

Members of the cast which will perform in the second portion of the concert are Don Lucas, Harold Higgins, Thora Mathiason, Tomi Moranda, Marilyn Miller, Carol Hewitt, John Alegria, Gary Chatburn, B.111 Frankeberger, Charles Nixon, Ed Palmer, Bob Pulliam, Gary Smith, Bill Takamatsu, Robin Thomas, Sheila Welt, Jan Parmer, Donna Hester, Leilani Ellet, and Richard Fernandes.

Sixty singers are included in the a capella choir itself.

Lonita C of C Meet Cancelled
The Dinner Meeting of the Lonita Chamber of Commerce which was cancelled, due to the lack of firm commitments, according to Ed Gregory, program chairman.

"I hope those who sent in reservations will not be inconvenienced," said Gregory, "and we wish to thank those who did make a firm commitment."

ECC Faculty Nominates Officers

Miss Virginia Piffner, psychology instructor, will head the Faculty Assn. of El Camino College during the 1961-62 year. She and fellow officers were installed at an association meeting Thursday.

A graduate of Occidental College and the University of Southern California, Miss Piffner is a former El Camino student. During her student days at El Camino she was honored as Empress at the year-end formal ball.

MISS PFIFFNER, retiring as vice-president of the association takes over duties from retiring president John Mills, economics instructor.

Assuming the vice-president position from Miss Piffner is psychology - sociology instructor, Donovan A. Swanson. Swanson obtained his bachelor of education degree from the University of Alberta, and his Ed. D. from Stanford University.

TAKING OVER duties of secretary from Miss John Lusk, music instructor, is Mrs. Grace M. Edwards, drafting instructor. Mrs. Edwards acquired her education at UCLA and Long Beach State.

Retiring treasurer, Richard Schwartzman, audio - visual coordinator for the college, will be succeeded by Gerald E. Thompson, life science instructor. Thompson acquired B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Southern Calif.

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