

Kuchel Defends Current System Of Assigning Defense Projects

Defending Armed Forces purchasing procedure, U. S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California lashed back recently in Senate debate at complaining colleagues who want to alter the contract award methods for missiles, weapons, and other equipment needed for national defense.

With the support of his colleague, Senator Clair Engle, the Senior California lawmaker directly replied to accusations by members from the At-

lantic seaboard and Middle West that an unfair concentration of defense production has been placed in California.

THE DEBATE, which extended over several days, was provoked by a Defense Department report illustrating the way in which scientific research and development projects are distributed around the country, with California educational, industrial, and other institutions receiving 41.3 per-

cent of fiscal 1961 contracts. Criticism also was voiced about placement of nearly one-quarter of all production orders in California.

In one exchange, Kuchel vehemently resented an insinuation by Senator Frank Lausche, Ohio Democrat, that States receiving large shares of research assignments have been "pirating" talented scientists and on another occasion the Californian replied sharply to demands of his New York

Republican colleagues, Senators Jacob Javits and Kenneth Keating, that procurement laws be revised.

THE CALIFORNIAN, who is assistant Senate Republican leader, declared that would-be research, development, and production firms anywhere in the nation have full opportunity to seek Defense Department contracts but reiterated the stand he has taken several times that "we cannot make

the procurement program as gigantic as WPA." He noted that Congress repeatedly has forbidden the Armed Services to pay premium prices in order to provide employment for labor-surplus areas in supplying their needs.

"Any Senator on this floor has a responsibility to ask for fair and equal treatment for his people. Every Senator on this floor has a duty to refrain from asking more," Kuchel asserted.

"In my judgment, the Defense Department in this administration, in the award of defense contracts is giving fair and equal treatment to all Americans, no matter in what State they may reside.

"WHENEVER I ask Senators who disagree with me whether they charge special treatment or favoritism or chicanery, they answer in the negative. Not one single specific instance has ever developed

where a Senator has risen on the floor to say 'Look what happened here'. No; let the Secretary of Defense go forward, in the terrible responsibilities he has, without being abused in the U.S. Senate."

Engle, sharing his colleague's views, said Senators complaining about California's share of defense orders want procurement and research contracts "distributed like porridge from a soup kitchen." He agreed with Kuchel that the Armed Services must get the best equipment, fastest, and at lowest prices, and that California concerns have received orders

because of ability to meet this requirement.

READING FROM a Defense Department brochure on procurement patterns and a policy statement furnished by Secretary McNamara in reply to his direct request, Kuchel said, "Competition is the backbone of our system. Let others in the nation assume an alertness and an activity and a zeal which, apparently, they do not now have. That is the prescription for progress."

He added: "Congress appropriates money to the Department of Defense for one single purpose: namely, the security of the American people. We ought to salute the painstaking manner in which the dedicated people in the Department are discharging this immense responsibility, rather than to make veiled insinuations, as some Senators regrettably have done, that there is an unreasonable or an administrative inertia in what, in my mind, represents a great and gallant Defense Department dedicated to the primary responsibility to all 180,000,000 Americans — their security and their freedom."

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Highway signs which warn of potential danger areas ahead aren't the only ones which affect your driving safety.

"Sometimes the most important signs are the barely perceptible changes of habit and attitude which convert careful driving to careless driving," California Highway Patrol Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden said.

"A driver with an excellent record — no violations, no accidents — over a period of years is involved in a serious crash. Why? Perhaps overconfidence in his own ability led to reduced caution. Perhaps his reaction time had slowed, or his vision had become less acute.

"Every driver is subject to change, both in attitudes and physical capabilities. Only frank self-appraisal will disclose if these changes have lessened your ability to drive," the commissioner said.

"The driver who frequently reviews and corrects his own actions has the best chance of maintaining a good safety record throughout his motoring career."

Republicans Plan Trip To Catalina

The South Bay Young Republican Club is sponsoring a "Republican Hi-Neighbor Catalina Day" to be held on Sunday, Aug. 12.

The event will consist of a Republican "friendly" invasion of Catalina Island aboard the S. S. Catalina.

Invasion troops will be comprised of members from various Republican clubs and other interested persons. Commander Charles Chapel will lead the Republican platoon ashore at Avalon Beach.

Departure is scheduled for 9:45 a.m. from the Wilmington Pier at the end of Avalon Blvd. on Aug. 12. Arrival time back in Wilmington is slated for 9 p.m. on the same day.

Plans are being made to accommodate a large group at a buffet luncheon at the Avalon Casino. Adult fare for the trip is \$7.50 per person. Children from 5 to 17 years of age will be \$3.75 each.

Reservations should be made as soon as possible by contacting Mrs. Phil LeFevre at FR 9-1100 or Mrs. Virginia Jones at DA 7-0962. Interested individuals desiring to obtain reservations directly may do so by writing to South Bay Young Republicans, P.O. Box 156, Manhattan Beach. All checks should be made payable to M.G.R.S., Inc.

By-Laws Adopted By Coin Group

William Willoughby was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Torrance Coin Club. He spoke on "Gold: Wealth and Weapon."

The by-laws were accepted by the members after they were revised. The next meeting will be held Tuesday at 8 p.m. at 1316 Border St.