

Rules of Order In Legislature Drawn Specially

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District
 Many people write to me about the rules of order or parliamentary procedure used in the California Legislature. Some think we use "Robert's Rules of Order," but this is not correct. We use a small book "Legislature," revised frequently. It contains Assembly Rules of Order, State Senate Rules of Order, and Joint Rules of Order (used by both Assembly and the Senate.) There are no copies now available for general free distribution or for sale. In 1963, we may be issued 10 copies apiece. In that case, one is kept at the desk on the floor of the Assembly, one in the office in the Capitol, and one kept at home, leaving seven for distribution, free, assuming we receive 10 in 1963.

If we receive 10 in 1963, the seven will be sent only to political party officials in order of their rank in the party as nearly as we can determine it. Incidentally, when issued 10, I send four to Republican leaders and three to Democratic party leaders.

IN THE California State Legislature, if we cannot agree on a point of order as set forth in the Handbook California Legislature, then we refer to a clothbound book titled Manual of Legislative Procedure for Legislative and Other Governmental Bodies, by Paul Mason,

CG Officer Applications Accepted Now

The Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard has announced that applications are now being accepted for the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School which will convene at Yorktown, Va., on Feb. 11, 1963. A subsequent class for officer candidates will convene in September 1963.

Applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 26 and hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university at the time of selection for this school. Applicants who are qualified in law or oceanography are particularly desired. Upon completion of 17 weeks indoctrination at the Officer Candidate School, graduates are commissioned Ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and required to serve on active duty for three years.

For further information write Commandant (PTP-2), U. S. Coast Guard, Washington 25, D. C., or contact your local Coast Guard recruiter.

Dinner Set

Tickets for the annual Torrance-Lomita Realty Board installation dinner to be held Thursday, Dec. 13, are now available at a \$5 donation. Realtor Bill McEwen is in charge of ticket sales and will contact members. The event will be held at the Torrance-Lomita Board Hall, 22833 S. Arlington.

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- 7 Change in a wart or mole

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

commonly called "Mason's Manual." Apparently it was written originally in 1935, and revised several times. The copy I have was published in January, 1953, by the State Printer, Printing Division, corner N. Seventh and Richards Boulevard, Sacramento, Calif., but to the best of my belief the book is now out of print and not available from any source. However, it is the best modern text on Rules of Order

I have read and if you write to the State Printer, it is possible that if he gets enough requests, he might print some more copies.

INCIDENTALLY, Paul Mason was admitted to the California State Bar as a licensed attorney-at-law in September, 1923. He has held too many important national and state offices to list here, but among other distinctions, he is na-

tionally recognized as one of the greatest authorities on parliamentary procedure or rules of order.

I cannot speak for the Democratic Party with any degree of authority, but at all meetings of the Republican State Central Committee or any Republican County Central Committee, when there is any doubt about our own rules of order we refer to "Mason's Manual."

I own a copy of Robert's Rules of Order Revised for Deliberative Assemblies, by Henry M. Robert, then a general, U.S. Army, published by Scott, Foresman and Co., New York City. My edition was copyrighted and published in 1921. General Henry Martyn Robert, the author of the book, was born in 1837 and died in 1923. There may be later editions, but fundamentally no

later edition will be found to deviate much from the edition of 1921.

In the last part of my edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, on pages 305, and 307, he plainly indicates that he was not trying to write a "bible" on rules of order to be followed word-for-word, by all organizations, but a guide so that each organization could make up its own rules of order. In personal correspondence with General Henry Martyn Robert, many years ago, he not only confirmed the above statement but emphasized that he never intended that his

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By FRED NEHER

book be followed to the petty detail by all organizations, that he was only trying to bring order out of chaos in the field of rules of order.

THERE ARE many good books on rules of order other than those I have mentioned. If you will please go to any public library and ask to read Subject Guide to Books in Print, published by R. R. Bowker Co., New York City you will find such books listed with the title, the name of the publisher, and the publisher's



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