

**By VINCENT THOMAS**  
**Assemblyman, 68 District**

The days before the 1963 session opens are slipping by with startling swiftness. Even in the midst of the Holiday Season we cannot completely escape involvement in some details of preparation.

There is a rush of last minute activity by Senate Fact Finding and Assembly Interim Committees. Required reports have been drafted. Some have been approved by the members, and are already in the hands of the state printer. Others are still in circulation for committee review, and secretaries and staff are standing by to handle last minute changes, if any. Some reports have been released to the press, and the recommendations in them are being discussed by interested groups.

Three units of state government must absorb the principal weight of our legislative preparations, in addition to the staffs of our two Houses.

**FIRST IS** the state printing plant. Hundreds of pages of the various reports including many statistical tables, must be set in type, and returned for final approval by the committee before being printed and bound. Many proposed bills are being presented in advance and its accompanying documents have occupied the plant for

weeks, so that they may be ready when the governor submits his budget message.

The legislative analyst and his staff have been busy for months, working on the \$3 billion state spending program for 1963-64. Most of the recommendations for economy which will appear in the analyst's printed report have already been decided. This report is scheduled to hit our desks shortly after the budget is introduced. In addition, the analyst has prepared and submitted an extensive study of junior college finance, together with his suggestions.

**THE THIRD** agency already hard at work in preparation

for our forthcoming session is the legislative council bureau. This unit will celebrate its 15th anniversary in 1963. Its work of assisting members to draft measures which will serve the purposes intended grows more complex each year, though the volume of work has been lower since a 1958 constitutional amendment went into effect.

As I write this, the council bureau has already received several hundred requests from legislators for work on proposed bills, and the number will sky-rocket as our session opens. The constitutional 30-day limit on free introduction of bills imposes a tight deadline on both legislators and the

counsel bureau. In addition to its work on bills, the bureau also faces a heavy demand for written opinions on all sorts of legal problems which frequently includes requests for opinions on measures introduced by other members.

As I have written here before, our six-month 1953 session promises to be hectic as well as productive. Important matters which are highly debatable are certain to be brought up before us. More state support for education, increased highway user taxes, wider FEPC powers, more consolidation of local government—these are just a few of the problems which will fully occupy our time.

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**Law In Action**

Disputes over water have produced some of California's most hotly contested lawsuits. In earlier days they were sometimes settled with shot-guns.

Three different laws govern water rights:

(1) California laws govern most water rights.

(2) But federal laws control rights over navigable water or water that crosses state lines.

(3) Besides Mexican law controls some of our water laws. When California came into the Union after the Mexican War, the U.S. by treaty agreed to keep intact most of the property rights of Mexican citizens and communities.

AS A RULE, water is not regarded as property like land or a car. But it is looked upon as a right to use the water, much like the use of a right of way or other easement.

Early settlers knew the value of a homestead near a running stream on which they had "riparian rights." Such an owner must make a reasonable use of the water. He cannot just have the water flow by to make a nice view.

One gets other water rights by "appropriation." A State water board will say how one may use the water and what is its best and most reasonable use.

MEXICAN laws govern the water rights of the old Spanish pueblos and the landowners within the pueblo. Many such pueblos are now large California cities: San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose, Santa Barbara, etc.

Mexico considered care of the pueblo residents vital. The city could take water from streams within the city so long as the inhabitants needed it. The city's needs took priority over the land owner's riparian rights.

The California constitution reserves for the people the right to fish in all our streams. The state cannot sell any of its land without reserving fishing and boating rights.

The largest Christmas tree ever lighted was 364 feet tall. It was in California's redwood forest and first decorated on Dec. 21, 1945.

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**5 1/2 49¢**

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**RADISHES or GREEN ONIONS** 3 Large Bunches **10¢**

**Bubble-Up** <sup>22 Oz. No Dip. Bl. Del. Mesto-Cut 303 Can</sup> 4 for \$1  
**Green Beans** <sup>1-lb. Can</sup> 4 for \$1  
**Asparagus** <sup>Single, Medium, Sevens All Green, 10 Oz. Can, Your's Full Qt.</sup> 29¢  
**Liquid Detergent** 49¢

**Paper Napkins** 9¢  
**Jell-O Gelatin** 3 for 19¢  
**Cheese Spread** 29¢  
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**Dole Juices** 8 for \$1  
**Sliced Pineapple** <sup>DOLE 1 1/4 CAN</sup> 5 for \$1

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 Fruit Wreath 100% ALL BUTTER COFFEE CAKE... 39¢  
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**TUNA FOR CATS** <sup>4 1/2-oz. Can</sup> 2 for 31¢  
**HORSEMEAT** <sup>4-oz. Can</sup> 2 for 53¢  
**DOG & CAT STEW** <sup>1-lb. Can</sup> 2 for 41¢

**DETERGENT**  
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**Oxydol Detergent** <sup>QUART SIZE</sup> 83¢  
**Spic & Span Cleaner** <sup>4-oz. BOTTLE & BROOMING LIQUID</sup> 31¢  
**Instant Maxwell House** <sup>16-oz. Can</sup> \$1.29  
**Bumble Bee White Tuna** <sup>7 1/2-oz. Can</sup> 41¢